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ABSTRACT

This networking guide is intended to encourage public agencies and the private sector throughout Maryland to share information, concerns, and strategies with one another regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting. The first section, a summary of local-level activities regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting, emphasizes efforts undertaken in response to Maryland's program of local incentive grants to encourage interdepartmental efforts. This section also includes a listing of possible activities that might be helpful in addressing these issues at the county or city level and projects funded under the Vocational Education Act and Job Training Partnership Act. The second section outlines Maryland's Local Incentive Grant Program. The third section lists the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of key agency contact people in the local departments of education, employment and training, health and mental hygiene, and social services. This listing also includes the contact person for the local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting; the local Chairperson of the Children's Council; the Regional Director of the Maryland State Committee on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting, and Pregnancy Prevention; and the president of the local Parent Teacher Association. (YLB)

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A NETWORKING GUIDE ON TEENAGE PREGNANCY & PARENTING IN MARYLAND

Local Activities & Contact People

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Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy & Parenting in Maryland

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INTRODUCTION

This *Networking Guide* was developed to encourage people throughout the state to share information, concerns and strategies with one another regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting. Publication of this guide is part of the Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting's ongoing efforts to encourage interagency cooperation to address these important issues.

Every year, close to 9,000 Maryland teenagers have babies, including about 200 babies born to mothers under age fifteen. Preventing teenage pregnancies and effectively address the needs and concerns of these children, their teenage mothers, their fathers, and their families require that all public agencies work together and in cooperation with the private sector. This *Networking Guide* was designed to facilitate these cooperative efforts.

The Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting in Maryland was formed in 1984 to foster interagency coordination to prevent teenage pregnancy when possible and to provide needed services when teenage pregnancy and parenting occur. Members of the Interdepartmental Committee include the Maryland State Departments of Education, Employment and Training, Health and Mental Hygiene, and Human Resources, as well as the Office for Children and Youth. The Interdepartmental Committee meets regularly:

- To promote state and local cooperative interagency efforts to improve programs and services for teenagers who are pregnant, parenting or at-risk;
- To plan and implement an annual state interagency conference on teenage pregnancy and parenting; and
- To establish a state-wide network to facilitate communication and cooperation at both the state and local levels on the issues of teenage pregnancy and parenting.

This guide contains three major sections:

- The first section, a summary of "Local-Level Activities Regarding Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting," emphasizes efforts undertaken in response to Maryland's program of local incentive grants to encourage interdepartment efforts. This section also includes a listing of possible activities that might be helpful in addressing these issues at the county or city level, and projects funded under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act and the Jobs Training Partnership Act.
- The second section outlines "Maryland's Local Incentive Grant Program."
- The third section lists the names, addresses and telephone numbers of "Key Agency Contact People" in the local departments of education, employment and training, health and mental hygiene, and social services. This listing also includes the contact person for the local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting, the local Chairperson of the Children's Council, the Regional Director of MSCAPPP (the Maryland State Committee on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention), and the President of the local PTA.

Finally, we wish to thank Margaret Dunkle, Nina Banks, Diane Postell and Thoa Nguyen of The Equality Center for their work to develop this *Networking Guide*.

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Local-Level Activities Regarding Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting

Maryland is "America in Minature" and the activities regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting that are being undertaken by the state's jurisdiction reflect this diversity.

Following is a listing of **possible** efforts which might be helpful in address teenage pregnancy and parenting issues at the loca level. While the most effective activities will vary from community to community, this list can be a useful starting point in identifying appropriate local activities.

- Hold **regular meetings of the local Interdepartment Committee** on Teenage Pregnancy.
- Conduct and publish a **study to document problems and barriers** to providing services to pregnant and parenting teenagers.
- Implement a **plan of action** to address these problems and barriers.
- **Evaluate agency policies and programs** for their responsiveness to issues regarding pregnant and parenting teenagers.
- **Evaluate school policies and programs** to assure that they encourage pregnant and parenting teenagers to remain in school.
- Hold a **local conference, meeting(s) or workshop(s)** on teenage pregnancy and parenting.
- Provide **training** on teenage pregnancy and parenting to administrators, teachers, community leaders, etc.
- Develop **child care resources** for teenage parents.
- Start a **school-based child care program,** including infant care, for the children of teenage parents.
- Improve **prenatal care** for pregnant teenagers.
- Increase **early pregnancy testing** for teenagers.
- Work to **decrease the dropout rate** of pregnant and parenting teenagers.
- Look into starting a **school-based health clinic.**
- Increase the **employment and training opportunities** available to teenage parents.
- Start a **job bank,** targeting high-risk and pregnant and parenting teenagers.
- Oraganize a **preganancy prevention campaign.**
- Undertake activities to **build self-esteem and decision-making skills** in teenagers.

In response to the request for proposals for local-level activities, many counties have both formed a local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting, and undertaken activities to address the concerns of this population. Highlights of county activities include:

- Establishing a Teen Drama Group aimed at twelve-to-fourteen-year-olds, with an emphasis on preventing teenage pregnancy. (Cecil County)
- Creating a local profile of the target population and their needs; developing a brochure of services and resources aimed at teenagers; creating a video-taped in-service training package on sexuality, pregnancy and parenting for Teen Hotline volunteers; identifying gaps and barriers to delivery of needed services; and developing action plans to assure earlier prenatal care for pregnant adolescents, overcoming transportation barriers and providing teenagers with parenting education. (Frederick County)
- Providing in-service training on teenage pregnancy and parenting to key administrators in the local departments of education, health and mental hygiene, human resources, and employment and training. (Dorchester County)
- Operating a youth job bank, holding a teenage pregnancy prevention workshop, and training staff on sexuality education. (Talbot County)
- Supporting parenting classes for teen parents. (Somerset County)
- Holding a county-wide conference for all county personnel who serve adolescents, and developing and distributing a wallet-sized card listing available resources. (Washington County)
- Sponsoring a Teen Parent Day Camp (for teenage parents and their children) in the summer of 1986, and holding two half-day parenting workshops for participants in the 1985 Teen Parent Day Camp. (Carroll County)
- Holding a regional conference on teenage pregnancy and parenting for professionals and residents of the mid-Shore. (Queen Anne's County)
- Holding a local conference on teenage pregnancy and parenting issues to train line staff, and to identify gaps in services and ways to fill these gaps. (Baltimore County)
- Holding monthly support groups for adolescent parents and a week-long program for adolescent mothers. (Wicomico County)
- Hiring a consultant-counselor to provide support services for pregnant and parenting teenagers in eight comprehensive high schools and to link these teenagers with appropriate existing services and agencies. (Allegany County)
- Publishing a brochure outlining services as part of a general outreach campaign regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting, and developing a slide/tape presentation on teenage pregnancy and parenting. (Harford County)
- Supporting the Teen Parent Program by purchasing materials and audio-visual aids for prenatal, parenting and academic classes for adolescents in the program. (Charles County)

- Sponsoring a local conference to identify problems and barriers to services for pregnant and parenting teenagers. (Prince George's County)
- Providing resources for the comprehensive, community-based program for pregnant and parenting teenagers (which includes education, counseling, child care and health care services). (Howard County)
- Conducting a study of the demographic characteristics of parenting teenagers in the county (identifying both their needs and available services to meet these needs) and co-sponsoring a conference on teenage pregnancy and parenting. (Anne Arundel County)
- Developing stategies to address problems faced by pregnant and parenting teenagers through regularly scheduled local interdepartmental committee meetings. (Caroline County)
- Undertaking a process (with timelines) to identify needs and problem areas regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting, and to undertake specific activities to address these needs and problems. (St. Mary's County)
- Developing a resource library in the guidance/health suite of both middle and high schools. (Calvert County)

The Maryland Department of Education, with funding from the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act, is funding model programs for adolescent single parents. Local educational agencies, community colleges and community-based organizations have been funded to expand outreach, counseling, vocational assessment and training services for adolescent single parents. These projects also:

- Supplement the county public school system's services by providing brochures, job listings, and job-seeking and job-keeping skills. (Howard County)
- Help students develop a career action plan, including placement services and postsecondary schooling assistance. (Dorchester County)
- Provide single parents between the ages of fourteen-to-twenty-five with parenting and consumer skills, vocational training, and job placement services. (Washington County)
- Educate adolescent single parents in child development and growth while enhancing the self-concept and potential employability of the young parents, and establishing interagency cooperation in delivery of services. (Queen Anne's County)
- Attempt to provide adolescent single parents who are unemployed with the educational and support services (including transportation and child care) that they need to obtain a high school diploma or G.E.D. (Charles County)

The Maryland State Department of Education is also funding innovative model projects under the Job Training Partnership Act to prepare "high risk" youth between the ages of sixteen-to-twenty-one for entry into unsubsidized employment. Several local organizations are undertaking projects to reduce dependence on public assistance, enhance employability, and promote self-sufficiency for pregnant and parenting adolescents. These projects also include:

- Creation of a career center staffed by a counselor to provide career development training and resources for career decision-making. (Laurence G. Paquin School)
- Administration of the Program for the Assessment of Youth Employability Skills (PAYES) in order to develop an Employability Development Plan for each participant who will then receive job search skills leading to either employment or enrollment into high school, a G.E.D. program, college, or a job training program. (Board of Education of Allegany County)
- Development of occupational skills while encouraging continuation and completion of high school, and serving as a center for career counseling, training workshops, support groups and community resource referrals. (OPEN DOORS Career Center, Inc., Harford County)
- Assessment of needs, attitudes and resources of adolescent parents along with career assessment, life skills management classes and pre-employment training. (Cecil Community College)

MARYLAND'S LOCAL INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

The Interdepartmental Committee initiated an incentive grant program in 1985 to serve as a catalyst for coordinated local-level efforts to address teenage pregnancy and parenting issues. Truly an interdepartmental effort, this program is funded through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and administered through the Department of Education.

To receive funding local jurisdictions were required to form a local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting. They were also required to identify and undertake specific activities and efforts to increase interdepartmental cooperation regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting.

The following pages contain a summary of both the Request for Proposals for these local incentive grants and the nine questions that comprised the application for funding.

Summary of 1985 Request for Proposals

Incentive Grants to Support Local Interdepartmental Efforts to Address Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has funding available to provide incentive grants to local jurisdictions to support the efforts of the Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting in Maryland. Specifically, each local jurisdiction (the 23 counties and Baltimore City) is eligible to apply for and receive a grant of up to $2,000 to develop coordinated local-level efforts to decrease the incidence of teenage pregnancy and parenting, and to reduce the negative effects when teenage pregnancy and parenting occur.

Submit Proposals to: Mr. Min Leong, Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting.

Who Is Eligible to Apply for This Grant? Only a local public agency (i.e., the local department of education, employment and training, health and mental hygiene, or human resources) is eligible to apply for this grant. Each county/jurisdiction should select one of these agencies to submit the grant application on behalf of the local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting. Only one application will be accepted for each county. While private and voluntary agencies are not eligible for funding under this grant, they should be appropriately involved in activities to address teenage pregnancy and parenting issues.

To receive funding, a local jurisdiction must:

- Return a completed Application for Funding (including letters of support from the local departments of education, employment and training, health and mental hygiene, and human resources) to the Interdepartmental Committee Chairman, no later than September 27, 1985;
- Form a local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting (if one does not already exist);
- Undertake specific activities and efforts to increase interdepartment cooperation regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting;
- Actively involve the local departments of education, employment and training, health and mental hygiene, and human resources as members of this local Interdepartmental Committee;
- Provide the Interdepartmental Committee with a listing of members of the local Interdepartmental Committee (including name, title, agency, address and telephone number of each member); and
- Provide a final report on activities begun and completed under this grant and a final financial report on funds expended under this grant to the Interdepartment Committee no later than August 30, 1986.

Applications for funding which do not meet these criteria or which are incomplete will be returned for completion to the Contact Person identified on the first page of the Application for Funding.

What Types of Activities Can This Grant Support? This grant can fund any of a wide range of activities, as long as they *both* foster interdepartmental cooperation at the local level *and* address issues regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting. Possible activities under this grant might include:

- Holding regular meetings of the local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting to share information, identify problems, develop effective interagency strategies, and undertake joint efforts to address issues regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting.
- Conducting and publishing a local study to document problems and barriers to providing services to pregnant and parenting teenagers — and then implementing a plan of action to make needed improvements.
- Undertaking an evaluation of agency policies and programs to evaluate their responsiveness to issues regarding pregnant and parenting teenagers, including specific suggestions for improvement.
- Holding a local conference, meeting(s) or workshop(s) on teenage pregnancy and parenting, stressing interagency coordination in effectively providing services.
- Providing training or developing specific materials to increase interdepartmental cooperation and effectiveness regarding teenage pregnancy and parenting.
- Undertaking a special emphasis in one or more problem areas — such as child care (perhaps school-based) so that teenage parents can remain in school, prenatal care for pregnant teenagers, early pregnancy testing for adolescents, dropout prevention programs for pregnant and parenting teenagers, employment and training for teenage mothers, etc.

This list is not all-inclusive. Applicants are encouraged to undertake activities which will be effective in *their* community to foster interagency cooperation and address issues or resolve problems affecting pregnant teenagers and teen parents.

The Application for Funding is six pages long. There is sufficient space on the Application to answer each of the nine questions.

Summary of Application for Funding

INCENTIVE GRANTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL INTERDEPARTMENTAL EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND PARENTING

I. Contact person: Name, title, address, telephone.

II. Signature and title of Chief Executive Officer of local agency applying for this grant. Attach a letter of support for this project from each local agency.

III. Project abstract: Summarize project activities, efforts and outcomes in 250 words *or less.*

IV. Indicate the date on which your local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting was formed. If it has not yet been formed, indicate the date when it will be.

V. Describe the specific activities that your local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting will undertake with these grant funds. Also provide a timeline for completion of these activities.

VI. For **each** activity identified in item V, describe the anticipated outcomes. How will each activity increase interagency coordination and lead to improved services regarding teenage pregnancy?

VII. Describe the role of each of the four major public agencies (education, employment and training, health and mental hygiene, and human resources) in the activities and efforts to be undertaken under this grant. At a minimum, each agency must be *active* members of the local Interdepartmental Committee on Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting.

VIII. Provide a budget for the activities and efforts to be undertaken under this grant. This budget can cover only *excess* costs (such as printing, transportation, consultants' fees, meeting costs, etc.). Do not include such items as salaries of agency personnel or other items covered in agency budgets or by current funding. Complete the attached DHMH Human Service Contract Proposal.

IX. This funding is for only year only. Describe how you plan to institutionalize interagencies efforts to address teenage pregnancy and parenting issues so they can continue after this grant ends.

KEY AGENCY CONTACT PEOPLE

10

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